

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 57-84, of which Claims 57, 64, 71, and 78 are independent.. Claims 27-56 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter and Claims 57-84 are now presented in lieu thereof.

In view of the above newly presented claims and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's invention as featured in independent Claim 57 is directed to a host computer for communicating with a printer having a stapling function, for generating a print data suited to the printer and for transmitting the print data to the printer. The invention is characterized in its acquisition means for acquiring paper feed tray information concerning the printer from the printer to which the print data is actually transmitted and display control means for controlling a screen display concerning the setting of staplable positions on the basis of the paper feed tray information acquired, so that a user may avoid selecting unstaplable positions on a printing paper that has been actually loaded in a paper feed tray of the printer.

Independent Claims 64, 71, and 78 are directed to a method, a recording medium, and a computer program, respectively, and each such independent claim incorporates the salient features of the invention as set forth in independent Claim 57.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of the independent claims is patentable over the applied art of record, namely, Ohtani (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,818) and Streefkerk (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,470).

Ohtani relates to the presentation of plural stapling patterns which include physically unstaplable positions, for selecting a stapling pattern from among the presented

patterns by a user and for stapling a printing paper in a printer using the selected stapling pattern if the selected stapling pattern is acceptable.

Streefkerk provides a display unit which displays a list of selectable printers and an operating unit which selects a printer from that list of printers. Streefkerk also suggests that “the user or operator can enter what options he wishes to select with respect to a selected printer” by using a display/control unit as shown in Figure 4 (see, column 4, lines 27-39).

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither of the aforementioned references teach or suggest the acquisition means or display control means of Claim 57, with the corresponding features of Claims 64, 71, and 78.

With respect to Ohtani, a user may occasionally select the stapling position where the printer cannot actually staple a printing paper, since Ohtani presents stapling patterns which include physically unstapable positions for the printer. As a result, it is necessary for the user to select another stapling position and to direct printing when the stapling pattern which is selected by the user is unacceptable. Consequently, when a user selects a stapling pattern from all stapling patterns using the method of Ohtani, the user has to identify whether the selected stapling pattern is actually staplable and if the user is not aware of those positions which are staplable, the user will occasionally select a stapling pattern which is unstaplable.

Streefkerk does not teach or suggest the presentation of appropriate stapling positions on the basis of the printer actually connected to the host computer. Streefkerk merely features selection means for selecting a printer from a printer list using a user interface together with setting means for setting the printer using the user interface.

Applicant's invention seeks to avoid the shortcomings of the prior art, such as avoiding the situation in Ohtani of selection of physically unstapable positions and avoiding that situation before hand. By use of a combination of acquisition means and control means, the host computer can control the screen display concerning the setting of staplable positions suited to the printer actually connected to the host computer.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art of record fails to disclose the apparatus of Claim 57. Independent Claims 64, 71, and 78 incorporate the salient features of the acquisition means and display control means as recited in Claim 57 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 57.

The dependent claims are believed to patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each of those claims recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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